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Col. Robert Thruston, of Lansdowne, son of John and Sarah Thruston, departed this life 22^d of February, 1857, 6 o'clock P. M.; aged 74 years, 11 months.

Robert Thruston and Mary Catlett were married at Timber Neck 20th of December, 1820, by the Rev. Mr. Risher.

Charles B. Thruston and Frances P. Linger were married at Gloucester Court House February 22, 1820, by the Rev. Mr. Risher.

EARLY LETTER.

FROM FRANCIS WHEELER, OF LONDON, TO HIS FATHER IN VIRGINIA.¹

LONDON, December the 29th, 1659.

Loving ffather,

My duty remembered to you with my Love to my mother Law² and all the rest of our friends in generall desyring yo^r health, praise be y^e Lord for that health I enioie at present: my last to you was by Capt. Holman wherein I certified you of the Receipt of 16 hhds. of tobacco p^r the Virg^a m^rchant & three of my Unkle Tustians. I thinke I also certified you that I had sold ffifteen hhds. of yo^r sixteenths in y^e aforesaid shipp for ffive pence p. pound & the excise, the hhd. that I thought had been lost was found & I have rec^d 16 hhds. uppon yo^r Account out of y^e Virginia m^rchant this yeare & my Unkle Tustians 3 hhds. of tobacco. I have here sent you an Accompt of sixteen hhds. in y^e Virginia M^rcht what they produced; my Unkle Mann and Aunt rememb their Love to you & my mother law & my Aunt Price rememb. their love to you & my mother law; and all y^e rest of your friends in y^e Countrey rememb^r their Love to you and my mother-law.

Since the 9th of October here hath been another overturne in the Governm^t of this nation; y^e soldyers turned out y^e last long Parliament & for a while wee were without any settled Governm^t but y^e sword, & swordsmen bare y^e rule of y^e Nation & this Citty not many weekes ago stood in a dangerous condition according as wee judge by the eye of fflesh, and had not y^e good hand of the Lord prevented what was feared, for aught I know this Citty might be turned into Ashes & the streets running with blood. The soldyers they are divided one against another & the people they are divided some for one government some for another & how long thus a kingdome divided against itselke can stand I know not. Sinne & iniquity hath divided us one against another & who knows but that

¹ Extracted from the records of York county, Virginia.

the Lord may give us upp to be destroyed one of another. The last Parliament, part of their members have againe within these Eight days mett again at the Pliamment house & some of the soldyers have revolted from their Comanders & adheered to this Pliam^t & this long Pliam^t together with y^e soldyers are likely to be our Rulers again for a season unless y^e soldiers clash again. As for tobacco it is rather a worse comodity then better then it was 2 monthes or 8 monthes agoe & what it will be next yeare is very uncertaine, unlesse here were like to be some settled Governm^t. Father I thinke it would be convenient for you to keepe a plantation;² & something in Virg^a the times being soe dangerouse here, and this with my prayer to y^e Lord for you I leave you to y^e protection of y^e Lord & Rest.

Your Loving and Obedient Sonne

FRANCIS WHEELER.

[Thus superscribed]

These for his very Loving ffather M^r Francis Wheeler living at Queens Creek in Virginia.

NOTES.

¹ Francis Wheeler was an example of many Englishmen who settled in Virginia to avoid the troublous times in England. His inventory was taken in York Court, January 30, 1659-'60, so that his son's letter never reached him alive. His personal estate footed up £1123 .13 .04 sterling money, besides 6538 pounds of tobacco and cask, 88 hogsheads and 7 pounds of tobacco, about 3 barrels of Indian corn, 3 bushels of peas, 6½ bushels of beans, "an engagement under the hand of Thomas Wilkinson to deliver a bill of sale for 300 acres of land in Potomac, also a plantation in Powhatan." This was a very large estate for that early period.

² The mother-in-law (step-mother) here mentioned, was widow of Nicholas Comins, of York county, whose will was proved April 24, 1656, and mentions son Nicholas, daughter Elizabeth Harrison, wife of Robert Harrison, and her three children, wife Eleanor, "and the orphan Elizabeth Hooper that I keepe." Mrs. Eleanor Wheeler's will was made April 13, 1660, and mentions her two cousins Francis and Mary Hall, Elizabeth Hooper, grandchild Amy Harrison and her father Robert Harrison and son Nicholas Comins.

³ The Wheeler plantation was in Hampton parish, and there is a deed dated February 18, 1658-'59, by which Francis Wheeler sells all his land between King's and Queen's Creeks to Thomas Beale, who sold it to John Cotton, December 31, 1666, who latterly conveyed it to Col. Nathaniel Bacon. This Cotton, as appears from a deed in 1666, had a wife *Ann*, who was undoubtedly the famous "An Cotton, of Queen's Creek," who wrote the history of Bacon's Rebellion. John Cotton was a witness to Mrs. Wheeler's will, and received, under its provisions, "a gold seal ring." One William Cotton was minister in Accomac county, and his will was dated August 20, 1640, and proved there

November 11, 1646; desires to be buried by his two little children; to his child yet unborn he gives his plantation at Bunbury and his negroes; in default of issue to his mother, Joane Cotton, and the other one-third to his wife Ann Cotton; brother-in-law Captain Wm. Stone and Captain Wm. Roper to be overseers of his will. On January 13, 1659, "William Cotton, of Virginia, marriner," son and heir of Wm. Cotton, for twenty-five pounds of English money, sold to William Kendall, of Accomac county, Va., one house with two tenements at Bedminster, near Bristol, formerly belonging to his father, Wm. Cotton, deceased. In the New England *Historic and Genealogical Magazine* Vol. XLIV., p. 199, there is an examination of Mrs. Cotton's narrative, which is addressed to C. H. at Yardley, in Northamptonshire. Mention is made of a family of Harrisons at Gobions Manor, Northamptonshire, among whom the names Robert and Benjamin occur. Robert Harrison, mentioned in Mrs. Wheeler's will, had by his wife, Elizabeth Comins, 1, Nicholas; 2, Robert; 3, James; 4, Amadea (Amy), married James Minge, of Charles City; 5, Frances, who married Thomas Shanes of same county.—(Records of York county, 1692.)

BICKLEY FAMILY.

By WASHINGTON BLEDDYN POWELL.

(Continued from page 30.)

II. VIRGINIA PEDIGREE.

In 1703 Joseph Bickley was of the Parish of Stratton Major, King and Queen county, Virginia, and on September 30 of that year gave bond to Joseph Waller for the securing of certain personal property to Ralph Shelton, a minor, son—by a previous marriage—of Mrs. Sarah Gessedge, Gissedge or Guessedge (variously rendered in the record), widow of Richard Gessedge, which Sarah, he, Joseph Bickley, covenanted to marry. (Records of King William county, March 20, 1703-'04.)

In February, 1703-'04, he is mentioned as of St. John's Parish, King William county, and then married to the above-named Sarah, and in her right receives and gives formal acknowledgment of having received one-third of the personal estate of the aforementioned Richard Gessedge. (Records of King William county, May 31, 1704.)

On November 19, 1705, Joseph and Sarah Bickley convey to William Noyes a tract of 320 acres called, "aquinton quarter," lying in said parish of St. John's. (Records of King William county, January 10, 1705.)

The date of Joseph's removal to Louisa county (erected out of Hanover in 1743), and of which county he was the first sheriff and